

AS

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 97-239-C - ORDER NO. 97-958  
NOVEMBER 24, 1997

IN RE: Proceeding to Establish Guidelines ) ORDER  
for an Interstate Universal Service ) DESIGNATING LECS  
 ) AS ELIGIBLE  
 ) TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
 ) CARRIERS

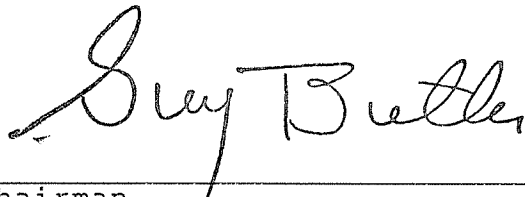
This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina on the requests of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth), United Telephone Company of the Carolinas (United), GTE South Incorporated (GTE), and the South Carolina Telephone Coalition Member Companies (SCTC or the Coalition Companies)(See Attachment A for a list of Coalition Companies) for designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) within their respective incumbent LEC service areas.

Section 214(e)(2) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 provides that "A State Commission shall upon its own motion or upon request designate a common carrier that meets the requirements of paragraph 214(e)(1) as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the State Commission." Pursuant to Section 214(e)(1), a common carrier that has been designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier "shall be eligible to receive universal support in accordance with Section 254."


We have examined this matter, and hold that all of the requesting Local Exchange Carriers meet all of the Federal eligibility criteria set forth in Section 214(e)(1) of the 1996 Act, with two exceptions. First, GTE notes in its application that, at present, it does not comply with the toll limitation requirement for provisioning Lifeline service, but that it is entitled to a waiver of such requirement pursuant to the FCC Order, and is thereby entitled to the designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier. We hereby grant GTE a waiver of the toll limitation requirement for provisioning Lifeline service for a period of twelve months, i.e., until January 1, 1999, since it is in the process of trying to meet the requirement. Second, the Coalition Companies request that we grant a blanket waiver with respect to the offering of the "toll control" requirement until such time as the FCC acts upon reconsideration requests of its Universal Service Order. Since this requirement is likely to undergo reconsideration, we grant the requested waiver. However, based on the above, we hereby designate all of the requesting LECs as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers for their service areas in South Carolina.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until  
further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Deputy Executive Director  
(SEAL)

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Attachment A

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**MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA TELEPHONE COALITION**

ALLTEL South Carolina, Inc.  
Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc.  
Chesnee Telephone Company  
Chester Telephone Company  
Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Fort Mill Telephone Company  
Hargray Telephone Company, Inc.  
Heath Springs Telephone Company, Inc.  
Home Telephone Company, Inc.  
Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Lancaster Telephone Company  
Lockhart Telephone Company  
McClellanville Telephone Company  
Norway Telephone Company  
Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Pond Branch Telephone Company  
Ridgeway Telephone Company  
Rock Hill Telephone Company  
Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
St. Stephen Telephone Company  
West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Williston Telephone Company

Corrected  
December 4, 1997